

**Virginia Department of Health  
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #10  
June 2, 2006**

**WORLDWIDE UPDATE:** The World Health Organization updated the count of confirmed human cases of H5N1 influenza to 224, including 127 deaths (56.7%). The only country experiencing additional human disease this week was Indonesia, which has now reported 48 cases with 36 deaths. The WHO pandemic alert remains at phase 3, indicating no or limited person-to-person transmission of the virus.

The WHO continues to investigate the cluster of influenza among a family in Indonesia, in which seven cases were confirmed, six of which were fatal. Fifty-four close contacts of the family members have been identified and placed under voluntary home quarantine. They are receiving prophylactic treatment with Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and undergoing a daily health assessment. Active house-to-house surveillance for illness is being conducted in 400 households in the area. No new cases have been found in the village since May 22, leading WHO officials to conclude that there is no evidence of the virus spreading beyond this single extended family and that the pandemic alert level does not need to change.

**VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office**

- The next Pan Flu Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled in June 28th 0900-1300, at Expressions in the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center.
- VDH representatives will present information, June 5 on pandemic influenza preparedness at Radford University for the Virginia Police Chiefs' Foundation in-service Deputy Police Chiefs' training.
- Leaders' meeting to coordinate MD and DC participation in VDH Oct 23-26 PanFlu Response Exercise conducted on May 30; follow-on, planner-level conference, June 12.
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:
 

Far SW Region	July 20
Near SW Region	August 22
Lord Fairfax	June 22
Eastern Shore	August 8
Fairfax	May 26
Pittsylvania-Danville	Late July
Rappahannock-Rapidan	June 21
Central Shenandoah	June 30
Middle Peninsula	August 1
Arlington	June 9
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

## VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

### **VDH ACTIVITIES – EP&R Region Reports**

#### **Pandemic flu communications activities in Northern Virginia.**

- Developing 3 brochures for general public, to be distributed to/by local health departments (currently under review) for statewide use; Pandemic flu, Avian flu, Taking care of loved ones at home.
- Received estimate for Community Tool Kits; Kits will be distributed to local health departments for distribution and training to designated local leaders on education/discussion on topic of pandemic flu, as well as general health information. Goal is to have this in the hands of local leaders in time for Emergency Preparedness Month (Sept.) 2006.
- Addressed group of executives at Lockheed Martin in Reston; human resources, emergency planning, security, and others. Local epidemiologists and local emergency management staff also participated.
- Slated to address the following groups regarding pandemic flu and communications issues: International Food Distributors (joined by local epidemiologist) June 7, EDS (Electronic Data Systems) June 14, and Capital One in McLean, June 20. Assisted Defense Logistics Agency with videos and information for their internal planning.
- Assisted Fairfax County Public Affairs office with requests for assistance in planning pandemic business summit, held May 26. (did not attend due to schedule conflict)
- Participate in pandemic communications committees in Loudoun, Fairfax, Alexandria and Arlington on bi-monthly basis. Working to set up similar committee in Prince William County with local health department nurse and county level PIO, initially.
- Meeting with Essential Needs Committee, Council of Governments, to discuss regional communications issues concerning/surrounding pandemic preparedness, 5/31.
- Presented concept paper to UASI funding entities "Communicating Beyond Mass Media in Public Health Emergencies" but have not heard whether or not funding will be granted for this effort (requested by all health officials in the National Capital region.)
- Meeting with Northern Virginia PIOs to discuss pandemic communications after VDEM sponsored Pandemic Influenza Seminar, June 7, at George Mason University.
- Meeting with Poultry Disease Task Force June 8 Harrisonburg.
- Asked to organize and moderate a panel on pandemic communications for the Virginia Government. Communicators meeting in late June or early July, date pending. Have issued invitation to potential panelists to Fairfax County Public Information office and National Red Cross.
- June 21 and June 22 NW Pandemic Influenza Summits will be held in Culpeper and Winchester.

### **VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports**

#### **• Lord Fairfax**

- HD and Planner attended Statewide Hospital Forum in Charlottesville. Networked with hospital partners and VDEM
- District Planner attended mid-term planning conference for VDEM Region 2 Pandemic Flu Tabletop Exercise in Fredericksburg.

#### **• Fairfax**

- Conducted Mobilization exercise to evaluate ability of Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteer leadership and team to set up a dispensing site using Mobilization Operations Guide and information received during previous trainings. The exercise also tested the delivery of mobilization supplies from the warehouse and command post set up. About 130 volunteers participated.
- MRC Coordinator, Assistant District Director did a presentation to an HOA on PanFlu.
- Health Director participated in a televised PanFlu presentation to County employees with the County Executive and the Deputy Executives for Human Services and Public Safety.
- Met with reps from hospitals, OEM, Sheriff's Office and County Exec's office on surge planning as it relates to identifying potential buildings that could be used as alternate care sites.
- Developed FAQ and set up a hotline on May 10 to respond to questions about ABC movie: Fatal Contact.
- Discussed County PanFlu planning with Health Department physicians.
- Participated in a PanFlu Business Summit, hosted by Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.
- **Eastern Shore**
  - Additional meeting of the Pan Flu Planning Committee held at Shore Memorial Hospital. Draft of educational flyer sent to committee members for review.
  - Planning efforts underway for August 8th local PanFlu summit.
  - With CDC Pandemic Flu planning monies now available, advertising for local Health Educator to assist with PanFlu educational efforts
- **Cumberland Plateau**
  - CPHD District Director, Epidemiologist, and Planner collaborated daily with local counterparts in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia to plan the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit.
  - CPHD Epidemiologist and Public Health Nurse presented basic pandemic flu information to the Buchanan County School System's Safety Committee that is charged with pandemic flu planning. Seventeen people (representing each school in the county) attended the meeting which initiated the school system's pandemic flu planning process.
  - CPHD Environmental Health Supervisor attended the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors meeting to facilitate partnerships and agreements with the County decision makers to address emergencies including those that may occur around a possible human influenza pandemic.
  - CPHD Planner continued to coordinated updates of the CPHD All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan with the Russell County Emergency Services Coordinator to prepare for a comprehensive response should avian influenza occur in humans.
- **Rappahannock-Rapidan**
  - Interviewed and are ready to hire Pandemic Flu Summer Intern - waiting for position approval from state.
  - Mailed over 1300 invitations to district summit - 93 attendees registered so far.
  - Presentation to Culpeper County School Administration team by District Director.
- **Roanoke**
  - Attended a "PanFlu stakeholders" meeting with the City of Roanoke. In attendance were VDH planners (RKE City, Alleghany) and epi (RKE City), Roanoke City

- emergency management, sheriff's office (jail), police department, risk management, public schools, public works, communications, City attorney's office, DoT, human services, social services, general services, and libraries.
- In communications with private schools in Roanoke City HD regarding PanFlu preparedness.
  - Working with Roanoke City emergency manager to prepare EMS for PanFlu response activities. Scheduled a meeting with Roanoke County for June 30.
  - Working with Botetourt Correctional Center to become aware of the issues they will be facing during a pandemic. Information provided to the medical department to assist with their planning efforts.
  - Bringing on an intern to assist in recruiting businesses to attend the LEPC PanFlu meeting to assure they are aware of the issue they may face, including COOPs.
  - Working with Roanoke College to enhance PanFlu preparedness.
  - Will brief regional USPS workers on 6/20, during their next Biohazard Detection System Meeting.
- **Crater**
    - Pandemic Flu information packets and approximately 500 family preparedness pamphlets were provided to faith based organizations in Sussex County.
    - Surry County has formed a committee that will address pandemic flu planning as a community and the Health Department will play a key role on that committee.
    - An Avian Influenza Q&A booth was at the Southpark Mall Senior Fair on May 31st. We partnered with John Randolph Medical Center. The VDH DVD was shown on a continuous loop, questions were answered and citizen's packets were distributed.
    - Avian and Pandemic Flu presentation was given to 150 high school gym/health students at Dinwiddie High School on June 1st.
  - **Portsmouth**
    - Health Director met with the city council and city management in and provided an overview of PanFlu and reiterated the importance of a city-wide planning effort.
    - Health Director also presented a detailed PanFlu presentation at Portsmouth's inaugural MRC volunteer meeting. Over 50 medical volunteers attended.
    - Emergency Planner spoke at meeting of the Portsmouth CERT unit. Presentation focused on PanFlu and the possible roles of CERT in a response. This monthly meeting of the CERT unit was attended by over 40 CERT volunteers.
    - Speaking to a civic league June 12th.
    - In the process of establishing a specific Pan Flu committee.
    - Coordinating with Portsmouth Naval Medical Center and their new command / staff.
  - **Loudoun**
    - Consulted with Loudoun Director of Economic Development on COOP plan initiative for businesses; established as public health resource to the health and science cabinet.
    - Updated Loudoun Health Dept EP&R group as to status of PanFlu planning.
    - Updated local hospital infection committee on PanFlu activities
    - Conducted monthly Loudoun county-wide PanFlu team meeting (LPFPTF) – the local Hospital presented their current updated plan and opened it to input from all agencies; tabletop facilitated discussion held on simulated human avian flu case arriving in Loudoun to stimulate thought as to current policies and gaps.
    - Spanish version of VDH Pandemic Flu DVD to be played continuously throughout the day at the Hispanic La Voz Health Fair.
    - Presented Loudoun PanFlu planning at the Loudoun County Science & Technology Cabinet Program: Public Health: Critical Issues, Challenges and Opportunities - the

- latest information on Avian Flu, HIV/AIDS, Lyme disease, and other infectious and parasitic diseases, bioterrorism, and other public health risk exposures and threats, as well as programs and initiatives to meet these challenges. Discussed vaccines, biomarkers and other research and development programs in our area, as well as important preparedness, health care and corporate response initiatives; scientific, public policy, investment and education dimensions of these issues and focus on the key public health opportunities and challenges for Loudoun County, Northern Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic Region.
- Scheduled to speak at APIC-VA state meeting in October on local collaboration with CDC Dulles Quarantine Station.
  - Scheduled to present PanFlu information and planning on 6/7/06 at the executive meeting of the International Food Distributors Association, with the Regional PIO. Polled our local task force for local issues, impacts and services to be addressed with this group.
  - Scheduled PanFlu training for Corporate Health Care on 6/8/06.
  - Created spreadsheet of all survey responses mailed, emailed, or submitted online by medical providers to be used in planning additional seminars and providing information; 96 responses to date.
  - Interviews held for Health Educator on 5/16.
  - Health Educator for PanFlu activities started 5/31/06.
  - **Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise (“Code Flu 06”):**
  - Conducted a POD Operations Core Group visit with pertinent nursing staff to discuss the vaccination layout for the exercise.
  - Conducted a Facilities Liaison Activity visit with Vice Principal, Heritage High School, to survey the vaccination layout of the main gym for the exercise.
  - Conducted a Transportation Liaison Activity Visit with Loudoun County Public Schools to provide an exercise planning update and to discuss projected liaison activity responsibilities and task list.
  - Conducted liaison visit with the Director, Loudoun County Chapter American Red Cross, to provide an Exercise planning update, projected core group responsibilities and tasks.
  - Conducted Logistics Operations Core Group meeting to provide Exercise planning update and group responsibilities.
  - Conducted POD Operations Core Group meeting to discuss projected responsibilities and task list.
  - Contacted Prince William Health District Planner to initially discuss tabletop exercises (flu scenario) to be held before the Exercise.
  - Conducted Evaluation Core Group meeting to discuss evaluation planning and task list.
  - Conducted liaison visit with Vice Principal, Harper Middle School, to discuss Staging Site plans.
  - Conducted Exercise Planning Team Meeting.
  - **Virginia Beach**
    - Presented to the Virginia Beach School Health Advisory Board on PanFlu and the issues associated with schools.
    - Hired Health Educator to coordinate education and training for Medical practices and for any other businesses, schools, etc. that request it.
    - Sending out a survey (needs assessment) to all local medical practices to inquire as to needed training, education, materials, etc.

- Holding first Pandemic Planning Committee meeting with the city on June 5, 2006.
- **Arlington**
  - Arlington has planned a pandemic flu summit, Monday, June 19 for a cross section of businesses, human services organizations, and government agencies to discuss and review the state of pandemic flu planning in the county and what further steps may be needed.
- **Peninsula**
  - The director and planner met with the Fire Chief/Emergency Coordinator for York County and four of his staff to discuss the jurisdiction's pandemic influenza planning.
  - The director augmented a presentation and discussion by the Eastern Region PIO and Epidemiologist on pandemic influenza preparedness made to approximately 30 members of the Newport News City Manager's Management Team. The district staff has been working closely with the City's Emergency Management Department on their pandemic planning for several months. Several departments, most notably Waterworks, have moved forward on their internal plans.
  - The director and planner attended a Hampton Roads Military Coordination Council meeting. Planning for pandemic influenza preparedness was one to the topics. A presentation on hurricane preparedness by the Manager, Delivery Operations Centers for Dominion Virginia Power provided an opportunity to ask about what plans Dominion Virginia Power has for continuity of operations for monitoring and repair operations during a pandemic. He was not aware of any specific pandemic-related planning by his utility.
- **New River**
  - District staff continues to routinely communicate with local government, partner agencies and private organizations through established means. The newly formed New River Valley-Emergency Planning Coalition is proving to be an exceptional and effective means for evaluating existing plans and integration of resources.
  - Collaboration continues with VA Tech College of Veterinary Science and Virginia Cooperative Extension Agents in preparation for "dead bird" inquiries/response as well as all hazard planning.
  - Continuing to meet with NRV School Superintendents to schedule dates for presentations to teachers/staff and distributing Pandemic Flu continuous loop DVD/VHS.
  - Coordination through local Criminal Justice Training Academy for presenting information to local law enforcement agencies.
  - Using local emergency management coordinators to schedule meetings with fire departments/ EMS providers and if necessary, law enforcement agencies.
  - Working through Virginia Funeral Directors Association for continuing education units and subsequently scheduling meetings with local funeral director associations.
  - Coordinating with other Southwest Health District Planners/EPIs, Regional Planner/EPI, and Regional Trainer for August 22 Pandemic Flu Summit to be held at the Inn at Virginia Tech.
- **Prince William**
  - Pandemic Outreach Work started. Working on getting preparedness information out to PWHD citizens and Faith Based Organizations.
  - PWHD Nursing Meeting 6/2 to review isolation and quarantine roles of the health department, and personal preparedness. Emergency Preparedness Group has developed a brochure for our staff with information on all-hazard preparedness so that they can still come to work as appropriate.

- raft for (Cities' Readiness Initiative (CRI) Plan, Pandemic Plan, and Medical POD Plan complete.
- Working with Funeral Directors Association and the county to finish health district Mass Fatality Plan.
- Special needs population draft document to include contact with the mentally ill and homebound completed. Certain agencies will even distribute medication to their clients. MOU drafted and will be taken forward for signatures.
- Business Manager is working on the district's telecommuting policy for emergency needs. Business office is cross-training staff.
- New County Emergency Planner hired who will work on the health district pandemic plan as well as the MMRS.
- **Western Tidewater**
  - Planning to conduct a Pandemic Influenza Preparedness & Response Seminar for Adult Residential Facilities in the near future.
  - Planning discussions for a PanFlu drill in the Fall.
  - In the process of hiring a new MRC Coordinator.
  - Preparing shelter kits.
  - Conducted shelter meetings with Red Cross concerning Special Needs Shelter and our Primary Shelter.
  - Planner was a guest speaker at Annual LEPC Meeting held in the City of Suffolk Council Chambers. Spoke on the MRC. Good turn out.
  - Continue to teach NIMS to the staff of WTHD. 65 staff members have attended the Instructor led course.
- **West Piedmont**
  - District Director and Epidemiologist attended CBERS Isolation and Quarantine Seminar in Roanoke. The seminar included a table-top exercise with a pandemic influenza focus.
  - Health Department provided over 400 copies of CDC's Pandemic Influenza Planning: A Guide for Individuals and Families to the Patrick County School District for distribution to teachers and staff.
  - District Epidemiologist interviewed by Martinsville Bulletin about Pandemic Influenza and the Community Pandemic Influenza Task Force/Planning Committee. Attached article was printed in the Martinsville Bulletin on 23 May 2006.
  - District Epidemiologist attended Annual Critical Incident Stress Management Training to become certified by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation in Critical Incident Stress Management. Aspects of this training can be used in debriefing Health Department Staff following exercises, drills and critical incidents, including those associated with Pandemic Influenza.
  - District Director and Public Health Nurse attended the Virginia Hospital Emergency Management Forum in Charlottesville. The forum allowed for networking with area hospital representatives.
- **Piedmont**
  - Meeting with Buckingham County LEPC for presentation and discussion on PanFlu planning.
  - Farmville LEPC subcommittee meeting regarding specifics of PanFlu planning.
  - District Office management team planning session regarding next week's Dispensing Site Drill.
  - Discussion with Deputy Commissioner, EP&R regarding next week's presentation to the Counsel of Independent Colleges of Virginia.

- District participating in the South Central Virginia Sheltering Tabletop exercise.
- **Southside**
  - Planner presented the Terrorism Security Awareness Orientation for all staff.
  - Part-time Training and Development Coordinator is onboard as of today; Administrative Assistant will start next week.
  - Planner has been asked to present Pandemic Flu info to two African-American Baptist Association meetings in July.
- **Chesterfield**
  - District health director met with Chesterfield County Leadership Group and the County Emergency Preparedness Steering Committee to discuss pandemic influenza and initiatives that are being undertaken by the district.
  - Chesterfield County Local Advisory Committee established and first meeting scheduled.
  - District epidemiologist and district planner met with Chesterfield Airport director to begin dialogue and planning efforts on handling sick private pilots and/or their passengers who land at the airport.
  - District staff was provided a pandemic influenza awareness session.
  - The district plan was completed and distributed to district's local emergency management and district management and supervisory staff.
  - District work group met to review status, e.g., established local advisory meetings, developed health education materials and surveys.
- **Chickahominy (OR The District formerly known as Hanover)**
  - District Planner joined the Asian Health and Securities Task Force of the Asian American Business Assistance Center. There is a forum planned for June 8th in Richmond.
  - Interviews were conducted for a district pandemic influenza education support specialist II position supported by pandemic influenza grant funds.
  - A physician pandemic influenza packet was prepared to be distributed this month.
  - Charles City/New Kent nurse senior Gale Bazzichi submitted an article published in the May 24-June 6 Chronicle.
  - On May 2nd supervisor Nancy Davis spoke to the Goochland Board of Supervisors.
  - On May 2nd, Director discussed pandemic influenza and showed the VDH DVD to the district Health Advisory Board.
- **Hampton**
  - Held PanFlu working group meeting with City Employees. Additional meetings scheduled.
  - Attended Meeting with Hampton Roads Military Coordination Council to discuss PanFlu planning.
- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville)**
  - District epidemiologist spoke at the College Health Nurses Spring Conference held at UVA. Presentation was entitled "Pandemic Influenza: The Public Health approach".
  - Local pandemic influenza working groups continuing to meet.
  - Epidemiologist provided live local radio interview discussing the recent news from Jakarta regarding possible person-to-person transmission of avian influenza (H5N1).